

March 15, 2000

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA RECEIVERSHIP
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2000

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the District of Columbia Receivership Accountability Act of 2000. This legislation became necessary because of information I have gathered that indicates that receiverships in the District of Columbia have been run largely unfettered by systematic supervision; guidelines for performance; monitoring to assure that promised actions are taken, and improvements achieved; cost and efficiency accountability; and other measures to assure that the agency is returned to the District promptly and in good condition.

The only District of Columbia agency to go promptly through receivership and emerge in good condition has been the D.C. Housing Authority. Its receiver, David Gilmore, demonstrated rare management and human relations talent. A Superior Court decision appointing a receiver for special education services for the District's juvenile detention center has been overturned by the D.C. Court of Appeals. Information concerning the other agencies in receivership have raised such serious questions that D.C. Subcommittee Chairman TOM DAVIS and I have requested GAO reports on all of the outstanding receiverships: Child and Family Services, the Commission on Mental Health Services, and the Corrections Medical Receiver for the D.C. Jail. However, information that we now have has led Chairman DAVIS and I to conclude that immediate legislation to assure adequate supervision of the agencies involved cannot await the completion of the GAO reports on these three agencies. Additional legislation may be necessary after completion of the GAO reports, but the bill we propose today is clearly necessary now to assure the safety and well-being of D.C. residents and cost effective reform of the receivership agencies.

Most of the outstanding receiverships appear to have similar problems, but the Child and Family Services receivership, appointed in 1995 by the U.S. District Court, caused special concern by D.C. officials and congressional members after the death of the infant, Brianna Blackmond. Brianna who was returned to her mother, after a judgment found that she neglected Brianna and her seven siblings, with apparent signoff from the court, lawyers, the child's advocate, and the social workers involved. Since the baby's death, no fair assessment of what went wrong, or fact-finding hearing by a court, and no effective remedial action to correct the problem, or assurance that more deaths of children might not occur, has been forthcoming. Instead, there have been reports of chaos and further deterioration in the agency. Chairman DAVIS has set a hearing on the Child and Family Services Agency receivership for April 14, 2000.

The Commission on Mental Health, charged with providing community-based and institutional mental health care to indigent residents of the District, was placed in receivership in

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

1997. The receiver has resigned and not only have the services not improved, but the plaintiffs agreed in a negotiated settlement to terminate the receivership because the agency appears to be in worse condition than when it was placed in receivership. Consequently, the court and all of the parties have agreed to a transition plan, and an interim receiver has been appointed by the court to return control of the agency to the city by April 1, 2001.

Medical services in the D.C. Jail were placed in receivership by the U.S. District Court in 1995 for a period of five years. Recently, the receiver let a contract at a cost three times the national average without comparing program and cost estimates regionally or nationally, and over the objections of the Corrections Trustee appointed pursuant to the 1997 Revitalization Act. The contract was given to an entity consisting of employees of the present receiver who have never had a contract before and whose only contract and only revenue would come from this D.C.-financed contract. In response to concerns I expressed, the court-appointed monitor detailed services provided without indicating if other jurisdictions provide similar services and asserted that medical conditions in the District were worse than other jurisdictions. However, she made no mention of the nearest comparable jurisdiction, the Baltimore Jail medical services, which also are operated by a private contractor pursuant to District Court supervision. The court monitor cited diseases at the D.C. Jail, which undoubtedly are found in big city jail populations throughout the country, and did not indicate why the District should have the same elevated costs and staffing levels now with presumably revitalized systems as it had under emergency conditions in the first years of receivership. The court monitor did not indicate why comparative costs assessments were never undertaken or what standards should guide a cost effective system and what completion of the receivership and return of control to the District should entail. No comprehensive outside professional audit was undertaken before the receiver approved large, ongoing costs for jail medical services.

Thus, three out of four of the existing receiverships present such substantial problems that Chairman TOM DAVIS and I have agreed that action to ensure higher standards and cost accountability cannot wait. The District of Columbia Receivership Accountability Act places affirmative duties on all receivers who are appointed by either Federal or D.C. courts to administer any department, agency, or office of the government of the District of the District of Columbia. These duties are:

First, best practices: The bill places an affirmative duty on each receiver to conduct all operations consistent with the best practices and financial stability and management efficiency of the District of Columbia.

Second, annual audit by the District's Inspector General: Each receiver must submit to an annual financial and program audit conducted by the Inspector General of the District of Columbia.

Third, controlling costs: Each receiver must ensure that costs are consistent with applicable regional and national standards (including personnel costs), except that this requirement

may be waived during any initial two-year emergency period of the receivership.

Fourth, consultation with city officials on the budget: In preparing the annual budget for the entity in receivership, the receiver must consult with the Mayor and Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia. After this consultation, the receiver must prepare and submit her budget to the Mayor for inclusion in the city's annual budget. The Council may comment and make recommendations on the receiver's budget estimates.

Fifth, procurement practices: When entering into contracts, each receiver must fully comply with the procurement procedures of the District of Columbia and work through the District's procurement officials.

The bill applies to all receivers appointed beginning with 1995. Existing receivers must comply with the requirements of this bill beginning with fiscal year 2001. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO
WOMEN, INC., 17TH ANNUAL
FOUNDER'S DAY LUNCHEON—
"LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND: MOV-
ING STRATEGICALLY INTO THE
MILLENNIUM"

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, March 18, 2000, the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW), North Shore Area Section (NSAS) is sponsoring its 17th Annual Founder's Celebration Luncheon at Fort Monmouth, NJ.

On that occasion, the annual Mahala Field Atchison Award will be presented to Dorothy McNish, an NSAS member. Since 1989, this award has been presented annually to a member of the North Shore Area Section, in memory of Mrs. Atchinson, an exemplary educator and humanitarian. Her lifelong devotion to enriching the lives of children and making our community a better place has been recognized in many ways. In 1973, the Primary School on Sycamore Avenue in Tinton Falls, NJ, was renamed Mahala F. Atchinson School. It is indeed a significant honor for Ms. McNish to receive this award, and I am proud to pay tribute to her on this occasion.

The keynote speaker at Saturday's event will be Major General Robert Nabors, the Commander of the U.S. Army's CECOM (Communications Electronics Command) at Fort Monmouth. Major General Nabors has been the Commander at CECOM since September 1, 1998. He has served our country in numerous posts, both internationally in Vietnam, Korea, Germany, and Italy, and domestically, most recently at the command of the 5th Signal Command, prior to assuming the command at CECOM. During his distinguished career, he has won numerous awards and decorations. Major General Nabors and his wife Valerie have three adult children.

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc., North Shore Area Section, is a non-profit community-based organization striving to ensure

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the educational, social, economic and cultural enrichment of African American women, their families and their communities. The NCNW, which was founded in 1935 by the noted educator and human rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune, fulfills its mission through research, advocacy, national and community based services and programs in the U.S. and in African countries. Born of NCNW, NSAS has been a part of the Monmouth County community for 18 years.

I would like to pay tribute to all of those who have worked so hard to make Saturday's event a success, particularly NSAS current president Laura Lewis and luncheon chairperson Girdie B. Washington.

TRIBUTE TO BOY SCOUTS OF
AMERICA TROOP 3

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of an important group from my district, Boy Scouts of America Troop 3 of Clifton, New Jersey. Troop 3 is celebrating both its 75th anniversary and its years of community service on this date. It is only fitting that we gather here for this honor, for this group epitomizes caring and generosity of spirit.

This Troop was formed not long after the founding of Boy Scouts of America. The national organization was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and chartered by Congress on June 15, 1916. Troop 3 was organized in 1923, and received its Charter from the Boy Scouts of America in January 1924 for the purpose of "Character Building, Americanization and Citizenship Training."

Since its inception, Troop 3 has always been involved in serving the community. The first Scoutmaster of this community organization was William Topp. The time spent under Scoutmaster Topp's leadership instilled in the Troop the attributes necessary for it to become the stellar force in the community it has now become. It was the small steps in the beginning of its development that gave it the fundamentals that would make its members role models to the people that they now serve.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, William Topp, the Troop's first Scoutmaster, also organized its first committee. The members of this initial Committee were Adrien Wentink, Frank G. McIntosh and A.W. Moore. These visionary leaders fostered and aided the group during its nascent years, and helped it to become what it is today. Boy Scout Troop 3 is forever indebted to these men.

The early days of Troop 3 saw the Scouts participating in much of the same activities as today. These include basic Scouting activities such as hiking and camping. This Troop has shaped the lives of many generations of Americans, and this is a valuable and noble contribution to society.

This active and involved group from Clifton has many records of its 75-year history. The Troop's archives contain a picture dated July

25, 1926, which shows the Scouts preparing for a weekend trip. The Scouts were the guests of Clifton's then Mayor Thornburn. In addition, minutes of early meetings show that not much has changed in the order of Scout business. Then, as now, the meeting began with the recitation of the Scout Oath and Laws, followed by games and skill building.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 3 continually touches the lives of the people of Clifton. The troop is known throughout the community for its tradition of service. Whether the Scouts are aiding seniors or their fellow students, they have made an important and lasting impact on the citizens of Clifton over the last 75 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Boy Scouts of America, the residents of Clifton, and the family and friends of past and present members of this organization in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Boy Scouts of America Scout Troop 3.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL KOENIG

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paul Koenig, an outstanding employee of San Mateo County, CA, who is retiring after 22 years of exceptional service to his community, his county and his country. He has served as Director of Environmental Services, Planning Director, Chief Building Official and Executive Director of the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).

Paul Koenig's long and devoted career in public service began in September, 1965, when he joined Broward County, FL, as a Planner in the Research Division. In September 1966, he moved to California to work for the San Diego County Planning Department, where he became the Chief of Planning in 1976. In April 1978, Mr. Koenig relocated to the Bay Area and was hired by San Mateo County as Planning Director. He was soon appointed to other demanding leadership positions, all of which he carried out with equal diligence, commitment and expertise.

Paul Koenig's accomplishments in San Mateo County are numerous. His most outstanding accomplishments include the adoption of the first county Local Coastal Program (LCP) that was adopted and certified pursuant to the California Coastal Act of 1976; The Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for San Bruno Mountain, which was the first of its kind in the country to succeed in balancing the interests of private property owners with the need to preserve habitat for endangered species; the Coastside farm labor housing project in Half Moon Bay; the Devil's Slide tunnel project; the establishment of Edgewood County Park and Sawyer Camp Trail; and the establishment of a Joint Powers Authority to operate the County library system.

Paul Koenig's distinguished and successful career can be attributed to his professional skills, his work ethic and his personal characteristics. His flexibility and negotiating skills, along with his helpful nature and sense of

humor earned him the respect of all those who worked with him. In addition, Mr. Koenig never neglected the day-to-day problems while keeping his focus on achieving larger goals.

We are all very grateful to Paul for his long commitment to public service. His vision, knowledge and commitment have helped immeasurably to improve the quality of life for our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to a wonderful and distinguished man, my friend, and wish him all the best in his retirement.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ANN M. KILEY CENTER

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on the north end of my district lies a haven of hope called the Ann M. Kiley Center, where people with development disabilities can turn for training, guidance and a place to call home.

On April 4, 2000, the center will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Built in 1975 on 37 acres in Waukegan, IL, the facility consists of 48 single-story, four-bedroom homes. Residents range in age from 20 to 85, with an average age of 39.

Most individuals living at the Kiley Center function below the moderate level of retardation. The primary purpose of Kiley Center is to provide residential services, training and health services. Services focus on addressing basic needs, which enable an individual to function more independently in activities of daily living and in more advanced behaviors and skills needed to succeed in social, work, and leisure pursuits.

The mission of Kiley Center is to enable individuals to develop and achieve their personal goals. Its ultimate goal, whenever feasible, is to prepare for and return individuals to live in the community.

Mr. Speaker, how fortunate my district is to have a place where people with developmental disabilities can live in dignity as they strive to develop to their fullest potential. I congratulate the Ann M. Kiley Center for all the victories it has achieved in the past quarter century and invite my colleagues to join me as I wish this institution great success in providing many more years of quality service to the community.

TRAFFICKING BABIES' BODIES
AND ORGANS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, the selling of aborted baby body parts for monetary consideration of any kind is evil. Unfortunately, this kind of commerce is one to which the Federal Government is enabler, facilitator, and partner. Although the current law hints against profiteering in the horrific destruction and dissection